

HORNET HERALD

Northern giant hornet stakeholder update



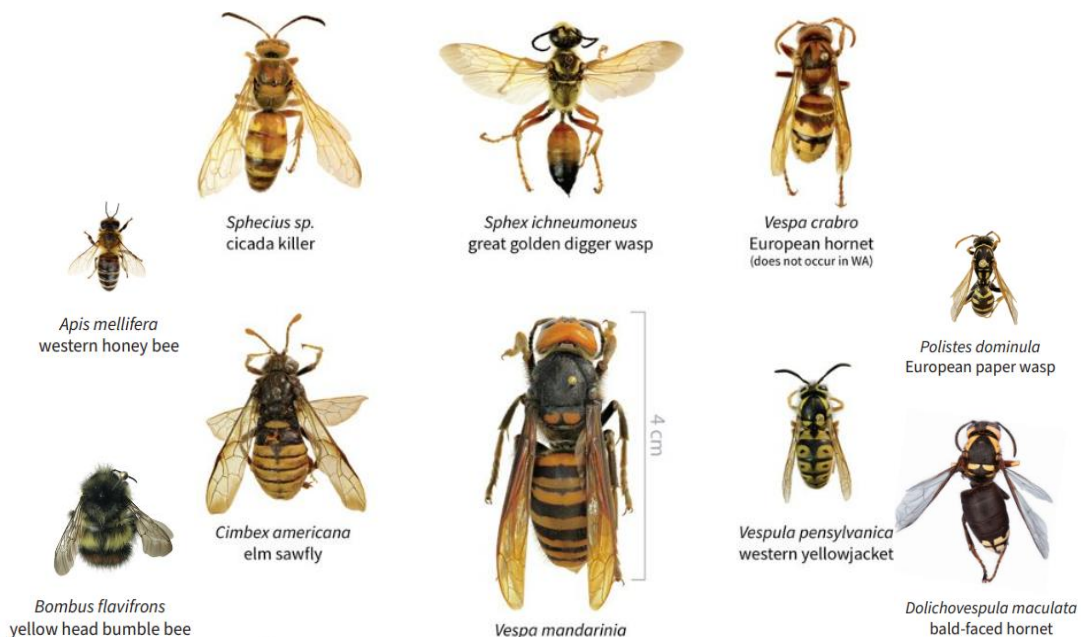
Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

NORTHERN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #23.02 – April 18, 2023

FLYING BUZZING THINGS YOU MIGHT SEE

Spring is here, which means many insects are appearing, including bumble bees, yellow jackets, bald-faced hornets, paper wasps, and more. The buzzing insects may seem larger than what you would see in the summer. That is typical, since many queens are waking up from overwintering and they are usually larger than males or workers. Our flying buzzing bugs are beneficial. They help pollinate many trees, flowers, and other important plants. We need our flying buzzing insects to help our gardens, neighborhood landscapes, and agriculture thrive.

WSDA created downloadable posters to compare local insects that are confused with northern giant hornets. [Check out the posters on our identification webpage.](#)



IDENTIFYING NORTHERN GIANT HORNET

There are a few things you can look for to identify a northern giant hornet.

- Usually 1.5 - 2 inches in length
- Large orange head with prominent eyes
- Black and orange/yellow striped abdomen



NEW E-MAIL MAILING LIST

The northern giant hornet mailing list has a new name. Subscribe now to stay updated on all northern giant hornet news and updates from WSDA. If you don't sign up, you may miss out on future activities and updates.

The Entomological Society of America established "northern giant hornet" as the official common name for *Vespa mandarinia* - previously known in the United States as Asian giant hornet or murder hornet. WSDA is working to reflect this change. This includes creating a new mailing list.

If you would like to continue to receive updates please [join WSDA's pest program listserv](#) for northern giant hornet. Be sure to select "Invasive_Hornets" as the topic. You can also select other pest program activities to learn about.

HUNTING FOR HORNETS SEASON THREE RECORDING AVAILABLE

In February, WSDA held a free webinar to recap lab activities and hornet research in 2022. Entomologists went overseas to study the hornet in its native range with collaborating scientists. Dr. Chris Looney shared how researchers are gathering data to aid trapping and tracking techniques. Learn how hornet eradication efforts continue and how you can help, by [watching the recording on our YouTube channel](#).

a recap of WSDA's hornet activities during the 2022 season



Dr. Chris Looney
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Learn more at agr.wa.gov/hornets

 Washington State Department of Agriculture | PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION
PEST PROGRAM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mount Vernon High School Science Night

WSDA will be at Mount Vernon High School's Science Night on April 20, from 5 – 8 p.m. The night showcases student learning and community connections in the Mount Vernon School District. Stop by to see the hornets or [visit MVHS Science Night website to learn more about the event](#).

Whatcom County Home and Garden Show

Visit WSDA's plant pest and hornet booth at the upcoming Home and Garden Show. The show is at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden from April 28 – 30th. You must purchase tickets to attend the event. You can learn more about the event [by visiting the Home and Garden Show's webpage](#).

PAST EVENTS

2023 Whatcom Farm Expo & Whatcom Conservation District Native Plant Sale

WSDA hosted educational booths during the Whatcom Farm Expo in Lynden, and Whatcom Conservation District Native Plant sale at Pioneer Park in Ferndale. Members of the community who attended these events, as well as those attending concurrent events nearby, had the opportunity to view northern giant hornets and other invasive species specimens up close. In addition to learning how to identify and report these species, booth visitors could examine a hornet suit and 3-D printed hornet nest model, learn about creating and registering a hornet trap, and were encouraged to take an NGH temporary tattoo home with them.



Thank You

WSDA is thankful for cooperation from local businesses and entities for space at events. Support and action from the public helps prevent northern giant hornet from becoming established in our communities.

NEW DETECTIONS

WSDA did not detect northern giant hornets in 2022. However, the hornet is not yet considered eradicated. Federal guidelines require three consecutive years without a confirmed detection to declare the hornets eradicated.

“While not detecting any hornets this year is promising, the work to ensure they are eradicated is not over yet,” Sven Spichiger, WSDA managing entomologist, said.

We’re getting to the time of year when queens emerge, so keep your eyes open and a phone ready to snap a photo and report suspected sightings.

Update from Canada

British Columbia had no new detections in 2022. They plan to trap this summer and appeal to the public for their participation to report sightings.

REPORTING NORTHERN GIANT HORNET

If you see an insect you suspect is a northern giant hornet, please report it. If possible, please include:

- Your name and contact information
- Location and date of the sighting
- Photograph of the insect (we generally cannot confirm a report without a photo or specimen)

If you cannot take a photo, include a description of the size of the insect, the color of the head and body, and what it was doing.

If possible, note the direction the hornet(s) flew when flying away.

You can report sightings by [visiting our Hornet Watch Report Form](#).



STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information about northern giant hornets.

- View [past news releases, blogs, and Pest Program updates](#) about northern giant hornet.
- Join the [northern giant hornet Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

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